



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20554**

**News Media Information 202 / 418-0500**  
**Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>**  
**TTY: 1-888-835-5322**

---

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
November 16, 2004

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:  
Jacki Ponti at 202-418-0436

## **INTERNATIONAL BUREAU MARKS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Washington, D.C. -- Today, Donald Abelson, Chief of the International Bureau met with members of the press to discuss technology, market and regulatory changes over the last ten years, and their impact on industry and consumers. October marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bureau, which has been led by Mr. Abelson since July of 1999.

Reflecting on the anniversary, Mr. Abelson said, "The Commission can be proud of the International Bureau's accomplishments over its ten-year history. I am particularly proud of the Bureau's fulfillment of its mission to connect the globe for the good of U.S. consumers."

Over the Bureau's ten-year history, consumers of satellite and international communications services have benefited from Commission and Bureau actions that have fostered competition and the provision of new and innovative services. Since the Bureau's inception in 1994:

- The international satellite system is in private hands and the number of providers (both domestic and foreign) offering service to the U.S. has grown.
- The number of satellite television subscribers has grown from 2.8 million to 23.1 million.
- Satellite radio services were launched and now have 2.58 million subscribers.
- The average cost to U.S. consumers of an international call has dropped from \$0.91 to \$0.20.

The briefing also noted changes in the global market, as well as the Bureau's efforts to advance the goals of the Commission and the United States in international organizations and with regulators around the world.

-FCC-

News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found  
on the Commission's web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).